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Newsletter

Number 32

11 November 2011



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. To those parents who supported / provided transport to the zone athletics at Poroti and the junior trip to Punaruku School.
- .. To Rebecca Agnew for donating \$124 from sales of her vegetables.
- .. To Northfuels for donating \$50.28 for a % of farmers purchasing fuel.

People of the week

- .. Those children who entered the Central Calf Club Event at Barge Park this week.
- .. Our Zone Athletics Team whose conduct and performances were a great advertisement for our school.
- .. Miss Hewitt who gave a stunning presentation at a recent Aspiring Principals' Course.
- .. Nathan for being a good role model at our Zone Athletics day.

Important change to term dates

Please note that the final day of the 2011 school year will be Friday 16 December (and not 20 December as formerly advised).

Prize Giving will now be held on Tuesday 13 December (starting 6:30 PM).

School Cups

It is a matter of some urgency that school cups are returned to school for re-engraving. Please do not polish these - we will arrange this. Thanks!



Satisfaction Survey

You will recall from an earlier newsletter our intention to invite feedback from parents on various areas of school operation. Over a period, parents will be invited to comment with respect to three areas .. **school climate** .. **communication** .. **and quality of instruction**. Our first survey is in the area of school climate and this is up and ready to go. To submit your responses (10 simple multi choice questions) please go to the link below. The more responses we have the more useful will be this feedback .. takes less than 10 minutes (maybe even 5). Alternatively, feel free to give Kevin a call to work through your responses over the phone.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFQ8D8C>

Being Valued (survey for children years 3 to 8)

You will also be aware that our overarching virtues focus this year has been around valuing self and others. We are keen to collect information which will help us to monitor the emotional "wellness" of our students. Please find the link below and ask your child to work through the questions (they will discuss these with teachers next week so they know what to expect). **It is REALLY important that you do NOT lead them in responding to any questions** .. **the responses must be entirely theirs to be of any real value.** Many thanks.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G5FCSZ9>

Please note that you will only be able to respond once from any given computer - please contact the school office for additional hard copies if required. BOTH SURVEYS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 2 DECEMBER.

RESPECT VIRTUE

Please take the time ..

- .. to read over the support material sent home
- .. to set some respect goals with your children
- .. and to let us know of any special successes

School Contributions

Those who opted for term payment of school contributions and activity fees will have received a request for their final instalment this week. Please forward payment as soon as possible and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss alternative payment arrangements. A small number of families also owe for activity or technology fees from earlier in the year and we are keen to receive these as soon as possible please.

Spelling Bee .. Underway soon. Parents might like to encourage their children's involvement.



PMP - Helpers Needed

We have a shortage of helpers for this term. If you are able to help out on a Tues or Wed from 1.30-3.00 (even just one day) please see Rachael Robertson.

Sunhats

School sunhats compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please make sure your child has their Matarau sunhat before leaving for school each day .. and their high vis vest.

Meningitis vaccinations

If your child missed this week's vaccinations, or you have had a re-think, please note that vaccinations are available at the temporary DHB Community Immunisation Clinic - Shop 4, Strand Arcade, Central Whangarei. No appointment necessary.

Maori Liaison Person

Efforts made earlier in the year to find a person for the Maori Liaison Role were unsuccessful. If you have suggestions on how we might improve our services to Maori families please contact Kevin (or any Board member) with your thoughts.

Art Scholarships

Portfolios are due 28 November 3:30 PM. If you would like to enter your child, and you have not received the background information, please contact their teacher or the school office. Please note that entry criteria have been amended this year to allow 2 items from a previous year and one from an out of school activity (with some conditions). We hope to see a high level of interest in these scholarships with potential to win a trophy at prizegiving and \$125 for each of the two winning students. Mrs Witte has kindly offered to assist with portfolios and to give advice to students.



Class Placements 2012

Teachers will soon be giving consideration to class placements for 2012. The final decisions must ultimately be made by the school but we can throw parent request / suggestions **of a general nature** into the mix (no guarantees). If there is something you would like us to consider please give Kevin a call or flick him an email on principal@matarau.school.nz

Where a parental request is not met, that parent will be advised the reasons why in due course.

International Student Homestays

Our international student programme has become an essential source of income for our school. It is also an opportunity for our children to learn about other cultures and to make lasting friendships with children from other lands. It appears that there may be some interest in short stay placements next year (likely one month but possibly extending to three months). Income from this is usually around \$180 per week per child. If interested in hosting a child please give Kevin a call to further discuss. Most families who have hosted international students in the past have testified to the value of the experience and we are hoping for some support.

Lunchtime Track and Field Competition

Great to see the level of participation in these events. Please continue to ensure children bring appropriate clothing with them. If you are able to help out please give Kevin a call .. you can specify your day or your preferred track or field event(s).

Garden Club Co-ordinator

Our present Garden Club Co-ordinator is moving overseas. If you, or anyone you know, would interested in helping out next year please contact the school office. This may suit a grandparent, neighbour who has an interest in gardening.

Calendars

Orders will be collated and sent away on Monday. Any queries please contact Brenda Sinclair in the office.

Fundraising Chocolate

Thank you to those who have returned their money or unsold chocolates. If you have not done so, please return on Monday.

Matarau Tennis Club - Opening Day, Sunday 13 November, 12.30pm - 2.00pm.



Community Notices

For Rent – 3 bdrm house, Pipiwai Rd, newly decorated, modern kitchen and new bathroom (heated floor), fully insulated \$310 pw Phone 021828526 or email merieljd@xtra.co.nz

For Sale - 1999 Honda Foreman – Good Condition – Ideal for Beach – Ph Edwin 0274 770 191

For Sale - Half sides of beef(2) professionally butchered and packaged to your requirements. Approx 145kg per half, \$900 total cost (\$300 deposit to secure order).

Contact for more details Michele Blagrove or Stephen Duckmanton after hours 09 4335 735 or Michele 027 6100 303 or Stephen @ Kamo Police 09 4355766.

Reliable Baby-Sitter Available - Previous pupil Holly Duckmanton (refer Mr T or Mr D if details required) is available to babysit in the Matarau/Ruatangata/Kamo area. Year 12 student with own transport and experience, very reliable. Rate \$15/hour first 3 hours, then \$10 per hour. Contact details phone home 09 4335 735.

Daylong SPF30+ Sunscreen (water resistant for 80 minutes), 8 hours sun-protection from a single application.

It really does work! Perfect for School (and work and summer holidays!) Available at Unichem Kamo Dispensary (Bush Rd) & Unichem Kamo. 15% discount to Matarau School families. Just ask in-store. Offer Valid until Feb 20

Worm Juice for Sale – Great for natural vegie & plant growing. 3 litre milk bottle \$2.50. Contact Neroli 433 8185.

Northland Youth Theatre Production – Aurora is on 16-26 November at the Old Library. Tickets at venue, ph 4306042. This will be a great quality children's production.

Kidz Camp - Marsden Bay Holiday Camp, Jan 9th-14th, wide variety of activities. Ph Helena 094447456/0273806323 or info@marsdenbay.com

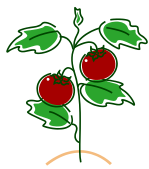
Summer Camps – Outdoor activities. For more information visit www.scriptureunion.org.nz or ph 0800 7822677.

Paihia Oceans Kids Swim - Saturday 10 December, 10.30am, Paihia Beach. To register or for more info visit www.oceankids.co.nz.

Tides Out Bream Bay Fun Run and Walk – Sun 6 November, 9.00am. Any enquiries to Susan McRae on 094321029 or Marilyn Cox on 094320209 or www.breambayfunrun.com or www.sportnorthland.co.nz.

Whangarei A & P Ag Day

Entries are now open for the A&P Summer Show on Saturday 3rd December 2011. All pet calf, lamb or goat **entries received before 14 November receive a free ticket** to the Show! Gate admission for the Show is \$5.00 per person, with under 5 year olds free. Visit www.summershow.co.nz for more information.



Organic Vegetable Plants

If running late with plantings (or if wanting certified organic seedlings for your garden), locally grown in Ruatangata to biogro standards. Phone Rebecca Agnew on 4351030. Rebecca will have a seedling stall at school on Friday (Calf Club Day) on the lower field with a dollar donation to the school for each seedling or pot/punnet sold .. and thereafter will set up a stall each Friday of November 3:00 - 3:20 PM by the upper carpark.

Final Thought

This week the board analysed recent charter feedback. Feedback indicated a general satisfaction with current charter goals and no alternative goals were suggested. Your perseverance with the difficult task of ordering targets (in each category) has indicated a slight shift in priority and this will be reflected in the revised charter. Highest parental priorities will be listed first in each section as a reminder that these might have the greatest claim on time and resources. The board has also resolved to explore better ways to communicate its charter objectives to parents. So .. thanks to those who provided feedback .. this feedback has been most useful.

Final Final Comment

There has been a great deal of number crunching going on at school this week as we analyse post test data. In a week or two we will be able to report on achievement in relation to 2011 targets. So far data indicates very significant gains .. more to follow.

Final Final Final Comment .. just off the press

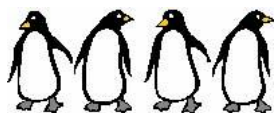
Cameron (one of our senior students) has just dropped by with these most amazing facts from his research .. "By the age of 16 the average child will have observed 100,000 violent acts on television and 33,000 murders". Makes you think doesn't it. Thanks for this Cameron.

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

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KAMO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

New members welcome

Stroke improvement classes - Monday & Friday afternoons from 4.30pm, start Monday 7th November.

Club nights – Wednesdays, start 30th November 2011 at 6.00pm, great atmosphere, timed races.

Swimmers must be reasonably confident in water and be able to swim 10-15m unaided.

Registration – Friday or Monday at Kamo High School, end of Wilkinson Ave

For further enquiries contact Chris 433 5099 or Helen 433 5823 or Sharon 027 631 9361